OCCUPY SYDNEY
Zine
PodCast Issue

# Transcript

# Podcast Episode 2: Robbery with Violence

osydpodcast.org

# Welcome

Welcome to the Pod Cast issue of our Occupy Sydney Zine! This is a special issue of the transcript for Robbery with Violence There will be more special issues to come.

There is a Free School this Saturday 4 August 2012

1.30pm Sewing with Rohan

Another part of occupy's appeal is sharing practical skills. Don't stare at the tear in your clothing anymore, mend, repair, re-use, recycle: bring your over-loved clothes and sew with Rohan.

Needles, thread and some patches for repairs will be provided

2.30pm eating sharing chatting

3.30pm looking at cops surveillance of protesters with Dale

note re Future legals workshops: We face cops and courts too much as occupy. There are many aspects we could be more prepared and know where we stand legally - email or facebook message or write on the facebook wall to Dale with suggestions for legal aspects you are interested in learning more about

**Please feel welcome to contribute & add *your* voice & views.**

**Online version & back issues http://www.scribd.com/occupysydneyzine**

A big thank you to Hugo, for his amazing initiative with the Pod Cast, please see Hugo to help with future Pod Casts. Much Love xx Bern

# Your Submissions & Feedback

Please put "Submission", "Feedback" or "Subscription" in the subject heading & submit your contributions by Wednesdays to OccupySydneyZine@gmail.com

so it can be ready for printing by Occupy Fridays

# ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE

(note: this transcript may contain errors – please reference with audio)

"They were conquerors, and for that you want only brute force–nothing to boast of, when you have it, since your strength is just an accident arising from the weakness of others. They grabbed what they could get for the sake of what was to be got. It was just robbery with violence, aggravated murder on a great scale, and men going at it blind–as is very proper for those who tackle a darkness. The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look into it too much."

Hello and welcome to the Occupy Sydney podcast series on resource exploitation. That was an extract from Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" first published in 1899.

Conrad based his novella on the atrocities he witnessed while serving as the captain of a Congo steamer – during the time of King Leopold the 2nd's brutal colonial rule.

People often say that this period in time and history was merely a phase. We would like to consign it to our past, to think that that the West has moved beyond its shameful colonial brutality. But the truth is far from that.

On the 24th November last year, over a century since Conrad sailed the Congo River on the Roi des Belges, a small group gathered in front of NSW parliament to protest what is happening in The Democratic Republic of Congo.

"The stakes are very high in Congo for the multinationals. Children are dying, they are raping women. Congo is one of the richest countries in mineral resources… We want to pass the message through, because some people are living in a comfort zone of ignorance. Nobody talks about it. Nobody cares."



Continued...

The situation in Congo might seem worlds apart for many Australians. Yet, just a few hundred metres away, overlooking Sydney harbour sit the offices of Glencore. Its CEO Ivan Glasenberg, is Australia's richest man. Glencore buy copper mined by child-slaves. But they are just one of the many Multinational companies making huge profits by exploiting the people and resources of Congo. And those resources find their way into every part of our industrialized economy.

Over the next 3 episodes, we're going to look at a pattern unfolding in many parts of the world – where some of the worst human rights abuses imaginable are being committed, where the environment is being destroyed and poisoned on a frightening scale – where democracy is stifled, corruption rife – and all this misery in places with huge resource riches.

This subject is a can of worms. The deception is mind-boggling. The level of injustice is vile. We can only really begin to scratch the surface – there are many hotspots we won't even have a chance to mention. So checkout osydpodcast.org for the full content of the interviews and for further information.

In this episode – we look at conflict fuelled by the resource trade.

First, to the Congo – a country that has suffered the bloodiest conflict since world war 2. To understand the present situation – we need to look at the past; the shocking horrors witnessed by Conrad.

When King Leopold the 2nd of Belgium took the Congo as his own property, he transformed it into a prison labour camp run on terror.

He made massive profits, from Ivory and rubber. The Congolese people were conscripted into forced Labour gangs to collect the rubber sap. Leopold created an army to enforce strict production quotas through a campaign of violence.

Each soldier would be given a set number of bullets – and had to prove that they had not wasted the bullets by bringing back the severed hands of their victims.

You see, they had to account for every bullet – so if a cartridge was misfired, lost, or only injured a person – they would hack off the hands of those who were still alive. It didn't matter if they were women or children.



Continued...

# Are you able to donate to the Legals Fund ?

- to assist people with court costs and fines out of their participation in a global movement against the current economic system?

**Want the latest Occupy Sydney legal news?** Download the Legal Tribune - http://www.scribd.com/doc/97093128

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## PodCast!

OCCUPY SYDNEY

osydpodcast.org

Occupy Sydney Podcast Episode 2:
**Robbery with Violence** – resource exploitation series pt 1 of 3

Link to Audio



Submitted by Wenny & Hugo

Villages were routinely burnt. Plantations were destroyed to starve people. Minor infractions were punished with mass-beheadings. Women were systematically taken as hostages, tortured, raped and brutalised.

All that mattered was the rubber production continue. A commission system paid officers bonuses on the basis of rubber production. Bonuses were paid for recruits into military service.

When Edmund Morel discovered what was happening in Congo – he said;

"I had stumbled upon a secret society of murderers with a King for a croniman"

Morel and others started to reveal the shocking reality of Leopold's Free Congo State. He started Congo Reform Association – and campaigned to voice out the truth of what was happening – he made it front page news. This was the first humanitarian organisation in history.

Now, this is the really sick part of it – when Leopold went to Congo, he told people that he was on a humanitarian mission. It was all very calculated, he even studied the legal basis of how other European colonisers had taken land – and he conned the traditional owners to sign away their land for a bolts of cloth. He told them they were signing friend-ship agreements.

Then when the atrocities came out – he paid journalists and writers and setup propaganda offices, and published lies to subvert the truth that Morel was revealing.

This is important to understand – because those who are exploiting today have had over a century to perfect Leopold's techniques.

The pressure of the Congo Reform Association forced Leopold to sell Congo to the Belgian State – and the Congolese people suffered under Colonial rule, as the Belgians continued to extract wealth. Then in 1960 Belgium officially handed Congo it's independence.

Patrice Lumumba, a leader of the independence movement rose to become the first democratically elected prime minister of the Independent Congo.

Lumumba stood against the covert imperialism that continued after his country had

been officially handed back.

He intended to use Congo's riches to make his people prosper. Now, this posed such a threat to the interests of foreign powers – that, not one, but several assassination plots were hatched.

By this time the US had a substantial stake in the Congo. The uranium mined at Tenke Fugureme was used to manufacture the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The CIA had a plot to poison Lumumba, which was authorised by President Eisenhower. The Belgians had an assassination plot, Operation Baracuda, which they officially apologized for in 2002 – not of their own volition – but after a historian Ludo De Witte exposed their role, which led to a new parliamentary commission that confirmed De Witte's findings.

The British ambassador in Leopoldville at that time, Howard Smith, later the head of M15 – also wanted Lumumbua killed. So you had a confluence of major powers all plotting to kill this democratically elected African leader of a sovereign country.

A CIA cable sent from Bronson Tweedy, head of the African Division, to his agents in Congo just four months before Lumumba was murdered (dated 9/22/60), states:

"our primary concern must be the concealment of American role"

So these various intelligence apparatus, schemed to have Lumumba killed in such a way that they could deny culpability for it.

On Jan 17th, 1961, after being beaten, tortured, humiliated, Lumumba was shot dead by an execution squad.

The US then installed Mobutu – who had played an active role in Lumumba's assassination – a paid CIA agent – as a dictator, who for the next 32years, ran the country into the ground.

It is also important to note that Lumumba was framed as a "communist" in the Western Media, as a way of manufacturing consent for America's role in that region.



Continued...

I spoke with Patrice Nyembo, a human rights activist, born in Congo – who came to Australia as a refugee, spent three years in detention, and attained citizenship in 2001. I asked Patrice about Mobutu and the history of Congo up to the present day;

“He was fulfilling their requirement by keeping safe their interests who were there…. the world still look away.”

The mineral wealth of Congo is estimated at $24 trillion dollars. Coltan, Cobalt, Zinc, Pyroclore, Kaseterite, Zinc, Copper, Kolewazite – are just some of the resources multi -national companies are exploiting;

“all of those new materials which we are manufacturing now, like mobile phones, laptops, all of those little electronic devices can be found their sources in Congo”

Kawama is a small village in the south of Congo. The ancestors of that village found precious green stones, Malachite. They thought those stones would bring their people great fortune. In the local language, Kawama means “one day this place will be prosperous”

On November 24th, 2009 the villagers of Kawama were forcibly removed, brick houses bulldozed as people slept in them. A ten year old boy had his leg crushed by one of the bulldozers. His family were too poor to get him medical treatment. People were shot at, some were killed and those who survived fled in terror.

This pre-meditated action was carried out to enable the South Katanga Mining Company access to exploit the land for its mineral riches. The villagers are still being blocked from their traditional farmlands, and now are literally starving. They have received no justice, no compensation.

Now the company EGMF, who own a 60% stake in that mine are a subsidiary of George Forrest International.

George Forrest, just as Leopold did in his time, masquerades as a philanthropist. According to Forbes magazine, one of George Forest’s greatest philosophies in life is giving back to people.

This is how these companies do business;

Patrice Nyembo;

When you have money, when you have network with the western.. you have the power to do anything. All your movements will be recognised as legal.

That is the way big corporations are getting in. They have money, they have power.

Military power and mining interests are closely connected.

Late last year a group of Geologists, under the auspices of the US Department of Defense – compiled a report on Rare Earth Elements in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. The Helmand province is a flash-point for conflict and supplies 75% of the world's opium.

The geologists were flown in on black-hawk helicopters, accompanied by heavily armed US marines. They were working from maps developed by Soviet scientists in the 1970s, to assay for Rare Earth Elements.

China is currently the dominant supplier of rare earth elements – producing more than 95% of the world's output.

China's dominance of REEs is a concern for the Americans. REEs are used in high-technology consumer applications; laptops, mobile phones, plasma screen TVs, solar panels, catalytic converters, batteries, wind turbines and the like.

But they are also increasingly important in military applications, including jet fighter engines, aircraft components, missile guidance systems, electronic countermeasures, underwater mine detection, antimissile defence, range finding, and space-based satellite power and communication systems.

Cobalt mined in Congo is another strategic mineral of the US Military.

Cobalt is a hard, brittle, metallic element – used in super-alloys that boast superior heat resistance, high strength, wear resistance and superior magnetism. The applications include jet engine parts, tank armour, and mining equipment.

In addition to this large-scale military industrial complex – it is common for rank and file military officers to be directly involved in resource exploitation. For example –



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both in West Papua, as in Congo – military personnel will own timber concessions, or others run small-scale mining operations.

I spoke to Nick Chesterfield, editor and one of the founder's of West Papua Media, an organisation that aims to break through the media blackout and bring credible reporting from the ground in West Papua;

Nick Chesterfield:

West Papua is an occupied territory by the Indonesian Military State. It's been occupied by the military which derives only 20% of it's income from the State and the rest it has to raise through private means.

So what this has meant in the 50yrs of occupation is that the military seize West Papuan land, forest, minerals – all the resources West Papua has – as it's booty. And it's been ripping the hell out of it for about 50yrs.

It's doing this on it's own behalf and on behalf of western corporations. But certainly there has been resistance ever since Indonesia invaded, this has taken many forms

So you were saying the Indonesian military is 80% funded by these corporations, who are they?

Sorry, I'll make that clear – it's 20% funded by the Indonesian state. They reckon they've lifted it up to 29% but there is no proof of that at this point. So it's not just private corporations that fund the Indonesian security forces, in fact there is some quite creative accounting that goes on to prove that they're not. But they are.

The Indonesian military are the world's largest organised mafia. They conduct protection rackets on little people, they conduct protection rackets on indigenous businessmen, and also foreign corporations working in the country.

They're a classic mafia model. What they do, like the Air force generals own timber concessions, Army generals own timber concessions, Police officers own timber concessions, intelligence officers own timber concessions. Most of them are involved in illegal logging, generally small-scale operations run by each local military or police command.

They also run small operations of illegal gold mining, what's called artesianal mining, where they get local people in to pan the gold, and they sell them the mercury, the panning equipment, the accommodation, the chemicals…

Then situations like the illegal gold-mining trade around Freeport with the tailings, they also bring in all the equipment, food, cooking oil, rice, noodles and prostitutes. Every police officer and military person has got a little bit of the side-project going on…

It's certainly large foreign resource interests that provide the means for this to happen, but whether it actually comes from a direct authorised payment from the board or whether it comes from the opportunities that this mine creates – whatever resource extraction interest it is, it's about as murky as the mines make the rivers.

Going back to the Indonesian security forces, how would one join the Indonesian security force in Indonesia?

It's the only thing there is to join. A lot of the Indonesian military personnel come from small villages. In Indonesia they've got a system called the da vinca system. A davinca, which is a village, each village will have a military officer in it, basically.

It's called the territorial command structure. Part of gwy funci – the dual function of the military in both social and defence affairs. They see themselves as the backbone of the nation, and so they involve themselves in every single social activity there is – which a lot of people object to. But at the end of the day they are the only ones who can pay their soldiers anything.

Even still, most families just see it as the only guarantee – you see it all the time across Indonesia – one child gets sent the military, one child gets sent the police, one child gets sent into customs or a civilian part of the government. That way it's both an influence thing and a breadwinning thing.

It's not like many people get work in private. So it comes from basic economic need, when the military and security forces are the only ones who can provide the jobs. There is a very strong attraction for people to join it, then they're brainwashed from the second they join it. Its quite easy to join,



Continued...

To rise in the ranks whilst maintaining ethics and care for human rights – now that's a different story entirely. Corruption is seen as the natural order within the military. It's quite common for a senior officer to pay for all his subordinates. That guarantees loyalty, it also guarantees … it's a very traditional system that works inside the military.

You were saying that there are Australian forces in West Papua – what are they doing there and who sent them?

There have been reports of Australian forces, but we've been unable to verify that conclusively – but with the existence of… the um…

There's been a reported existence of a new unit of the SAS who have been putting themselves in places where small teams go out and gather intelligence, or work with local forces.

Certainly, the Australian government provides arms and training to the detachment 88 counter-terrorism group. In fact, we completely fund detachment 88. It comes out of the Australian federal police budget. There's a great article from our friends at the New Matilda people can go have a look at (it's also been republished on our west Papuan media)

about just how much of our money goes to aid and fund torture with Detachment 88. So, Detachment 88 are used as a counter-terrorism group in Indonesia. They just recently killed a whole heap of suspects for terrorism issues in Bali.

One thing exclusively, we train them for interrogation and anti-terrorism work – but they are also used against separatists and peaceful free-expression, quite regularly.

There's been reports of them being used in West Papua, against protestors in Bima - in the Sumbawa mine, the Australian owned Sumbawa mine – recently the site of a massacre by the Indonesian police.

Australian trained and armed troops are certainly there, we also fund Kopassus – the special forces – and train them. And we also fund Brimob.

Our fingerprints are all over it and of course there are Australian mining companies

in Paniwa and of course the reason West Papua was invaded the giant Freeport mine – 41 or 42% owned by Rio Tinto, an Australian mining company.

And Rio Tinto also regularly use Australian mercenaries for their security operations – a company called FBIS International, they also use Executive Outcomes, Sandline mercenaries and all sorts of nasty – what they call security contractors these days.

There's all those Australian talent going on in these regions and it is certainly something West Papuans notice but are generally too terrified to talk about.

—

In mid-March, the Age reported on a secret Squadron of SAS troops deployed in Africa. That they have mounted dozens of secret operations over the past year in countries like Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Kenya.

We still don't really know what those SAS soldiers are doing in Africa, but it has been suggested that they are gathering intelligence, surveying the physical and political landscape to prepare for future military intervention.

I cannot understand why elite soldiers would be used for intelligence gathering. These are elite fighters. They instructed to follow orders above anything. The first part of the entrance test they are made to strip naked. SAS troops routinely board planes without knowing their destination.

You were saying there seems to be some momentum gathering for the West Papuan movement – what are some of the strategies and techniques that the Indonesian security forces and the mining companies have used to try to crack down on that movement?

Well there's… One of the key things they do – every demonstration that happens, every public gathering – they'll surround the gathering with heavy armour – heavy machine guns, armoured personnel carriers, artillery mounted light tanks, that sort of stuff -

And they'll turn up in, one of their favourite tactics, is they'll turn up – every Brimob police officer will carry a sub-machine gun – that's just their standard compliment.



Continued...

So every single demonstration you've got hundreds of troops, sometimes thousands of troops, at each demonstration. They'll point guns at people, they'll lock-and-load at people, they'll pull out pistols and point them and pretend to shoot them.

And then, obviously, at certain gatherings they will actually open fire – wherever symbols are used, or particular words are uttered. One of the things they are absolutely terrified of, the Indonesian security forces, is the display of the West Papuan morning star flag.

It's a flag that will get you put in jail for 15years if you display it – even though it's guaranteed under the Indonesian constitution that West Papuan people are allowed to display their culture and their political symbols.

One of the key tactics, is before a demonstration happens, they'll send in a car – mobile phone monitoring equipment through a marketplace and they'll scan for keywords (these things can easily be deployed in cars now – we're trying to figure out if they're provided by Australia or not) and they target keywords, scan for keywords.

And they'll basically go through a mobile phone and pick out all the telephone numbers that are stored in a mobile phone's memory – this is just from a radio signal – and one of there classic tactics is they'll send around these huge campaigns of SMS harassment.

Quite regularly activists will get sent SMS saying "we're going to kill you, we're going to kill your family" – that they're going to end up in the ditch, this is what's going to happen. This generally worries people, but it doesn't stop them. One of their tactics is arresting people, throwing them in jail and charging them with subversion.

I published an article just them where the leaders of the non-violent movement are saying "jail us, we don't care. It's not going to stop people seeking independence. "

And then there's what we call the ninja tactics, which are really nasty. Where a group of men dressed in black, usually special forces, will just kidnap someone randomly off the street. Not necessarily an activist, just someone who fits the part. Women are usually targets in this.

They'll torture them, they'll rape them, they'll brutalise them, leave them with sig-

nificant injuries – then they'll release them straight into the middle of the village. There'll be no explanation, there'll be no apology, there'll be no accusations, they just dump them there. Everyone knows who does it.

They become a walking warning for the rest of the people – "standup for West Papua and this is what you'll get". This is an extremely common tactic. There are a wide variety of tactics and all of this is done by units armed and trained by Australia.

Former military personnel are targeted for recruitment by mining companies.

In 1975, Lanz Priestly was a recently returned Vietnam veteran, who was offered a job driving trucks in PNG;

Lanz Priestly:

The particular run we were being hired to do was between Port Moresby and Garuka. You'd go up in 6-10 truck convoys and the entire drive was virtually all uphill.

You were armed to the teeth – sub-machine guns, grenade – in each truck. And you were under specific instructions that if the truck broke down, you would push it over the side, and you'd use the other trucks to do it. You'd just push that truck over the side, grab your weapons and jumped on one of the other trucks.

Your job was very much one of security. And you had two drivers to a truck.

And how did the pay for that sort of work compare then to the average sort of job?

A really good job back then paid 3 or 4 hundred bucks a week, the bottom rate for this was $2500 per week. I guess they really wanted those trucks.

In the Congo, foreign mine workers often have a dual role of security; these workers do not have the same familiarity with the issues and concerns of the local people.

Are you saying that there a foreign workers who come in, work in the mines, but then also have the capacity to become a private militia?

Patrice Nyembo:

Yep. They are not only there for working as cleaners and shopkeepers. No.



Continued...

That’s why their wages are quite good.

They are doing security. In case they need to protect the interests of that company.

How?

They can fight. I have some examples.

When I was there, military, us army was working there in metalurgical compound.

He was not only a worker there. But he was also a security guard.

Local people discover that he was a soldier. He was not only a simple worker. He was a soldier.

—

You’ve been listening to “robbery with violence”. We’ve been talking about resource exploitation and conflict – and we’ve only covered a very small fraction of this topic. Please checkout the extra links and documents on our website osydpodcast.org and get involved.

In the next episode of this podcast series – we look at the massive environmental destruction caused by resource exploitation;

[grabs]

“It is a matter of psychics not opinion, that these changes will affect groundwater.”

“They’ve come to the realisation that crop fertility isn’t assisted by petrochemical waste.”

“It’s planet’s loss. It’s such a vast area of extremely important climate stabilising land that is being destroyed”

Robbery with Violence: Resource Exploitation Series pt 1 of 3 [ 33:22 ] Download

# The OCCUPY Content Management System (OCMS) @ occupytheuniverse.net

## Learn

Education is a powerful tool for altering human belief systems and thus behaviour. It requires an organised system of information delivery and mechanisms whereby participation in the resultant evolving communities is facilitated. Comprehensive introduction to a variety of subjects is provided.

## Occupy

In depth content covers the philosophy, structure, and activities of OCCUPY. For example, one significant role is, “the facilitation of community building through education”.

## Interact

OCCUPY facilitates the creation of new ways of doing things and new ways of being responsible for the wellbeing and sustainability of both local and global communities. This is not easily done in isolation, but rather, gathers strength through interaction with others. It is a process that empowers each participant through the discovery that similar concerns are shared world-wide throughout many different communities.

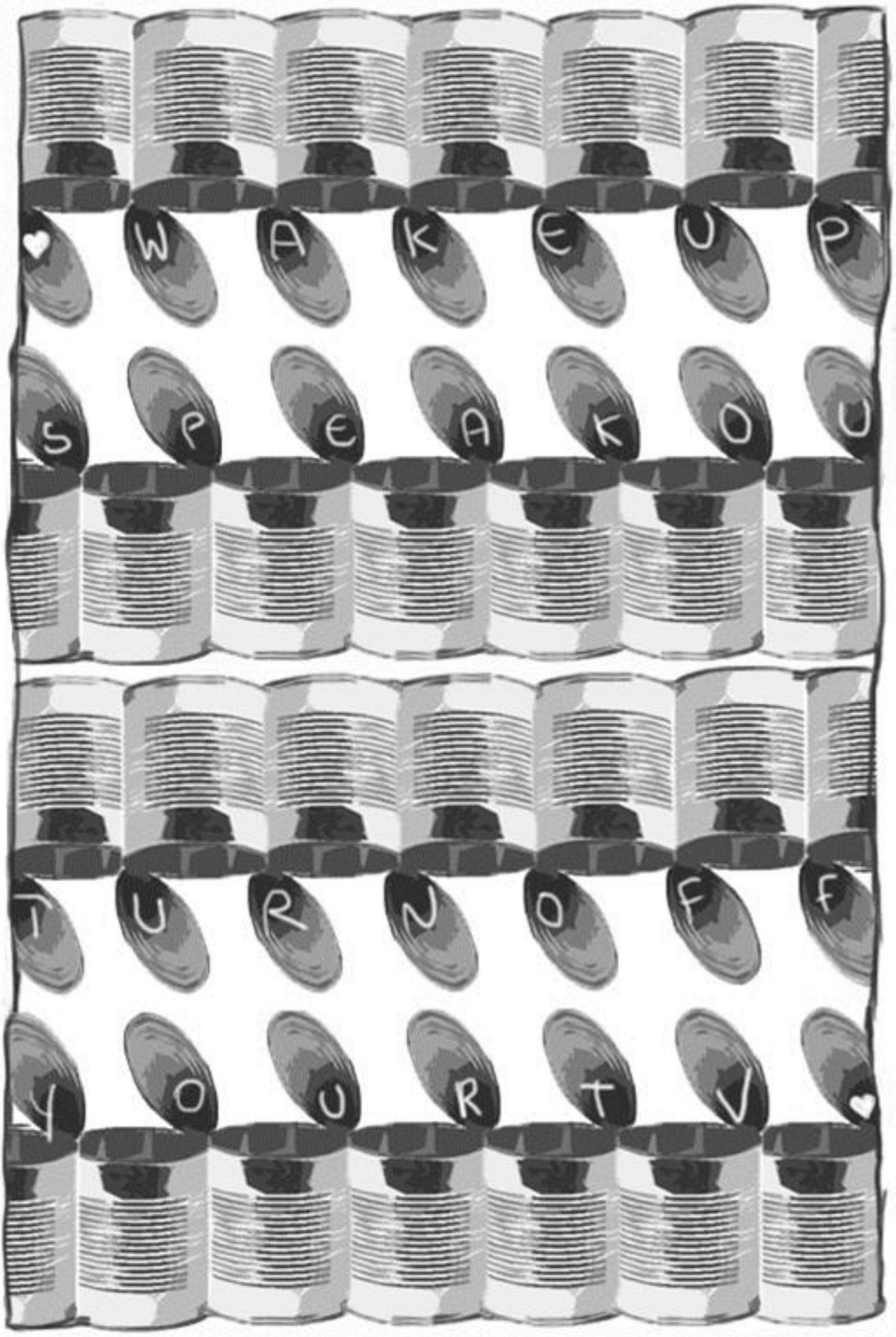
## Discuss

Participation in learning and interaction develops community identity. Through discussion, proposals for action can be clarified and activities understood.

## Collaborate

Identification of problems through participation in learning, interaction, and discussion, leads to the generation of proposals for solutions. Solutions take the form of consensus driven collaborations that can evolve into real-world actions.

Submitted by Allan

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